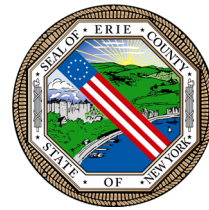




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Overview





The mission is to create a foundation to address the broadband needs of unserved areas, improve services in underserved areas of the community and enable world class broadband investment and deployment county wide. The fiber optic backbone will be owned by the county but managed and controlled by ErieNet, a not-for-profit local development corporation (LDC). ErieNet will be open for any viable entity to use or provide services to support broadband technologies and services. It is intended to enhanced economic development opportunities, promote better quality of life and enhance Erie County as a globally competitive community.

Funding

It is anticipated that the funds received from the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) will pay for the fiber network construction. The intention is to create a self-sustaining network where enterprise, carrier, and other customers that desire to manage and control their own broadband networks pay a fee for access to the ErieNet fiber-optic network. The fees will be used to support the long term operations of the network.

Benefits

The new broadband infrastructure offers significant benefits to the county including but not limited to:

-  *Reducing operational costs for the county with respect to current telecommunications costs.*
-  *Connecting public safety, municipal offices, DPW and other operational functions.*
-  *Enabling investment and development of additional capabilities such as "fiber-to-the-home," "fiber-to-the-premises" and widespread availability of 5G service.*
-  *Making fiber available to rural areas to support expansion of broadband to unserved and under served areas. Support for education, healthcare, and more.*



Impact

ErieNet will be a wholesale provider of broadband capacity throughout the county, leasing dark and lit optical fiber access to carrier, enterprise, and other entities that desire to manage and control their own broadband networks. For example, the unlimited bandwidth provided by the dark fiber will be available directly to "anchor institutions," including business and industry, schools, health care, public safety facilities, government offices and libraries. ErieNet will focus on partnerships with service providers and enterprise entities, encouraging the use of the ErieNet backbone to expand competitive services and create efficiencies throughout the county. ErieNet is meant to complement existing carrier infrastructure so as to not devalue the existing investments in our communities.

Timing

Construction is expected to begin by June 2022 for nearly 400 mile optical fiber backbone, and will take approximately 30 months to complete.

About Erie Net

ErieNet is a new not-for-profit, local development corporation (LDC) designed to provide stewardship for the construction and ongoing management of a municipal based open access fiber optic backbone that will span nearly 400 miles throughout Erie County. The LDC will be responsible for all components of the Open Access Model (OAM) up to and including long term operations once completed.